

Remarks/Arguments:

The disclosure has been objected to. The disclosure has been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 14 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. That rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims.

Claims 1, 5, 10, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Melito. Applicants' representative believes that the Official Action includes an typographical error and that it was claim 6 (and not claim 5) which was intended to be rejected. Furthermore, claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Melito. Both rejections are rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims.

Claims 6 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Tokyo Cosmos Electric. Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipate by Bhagwat. Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Brickner. Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hug. Those rejections are all rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims.

Claims 6, 16, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kato. The rejection of claim 6 is rendered moot by the cancellation of that claim. As claims 18 and 19 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten into independent form, claim 18 has been incorporated into claim 16. Thus, claims 16 and 17 are now allowable. Claim 19 has been cancelled.

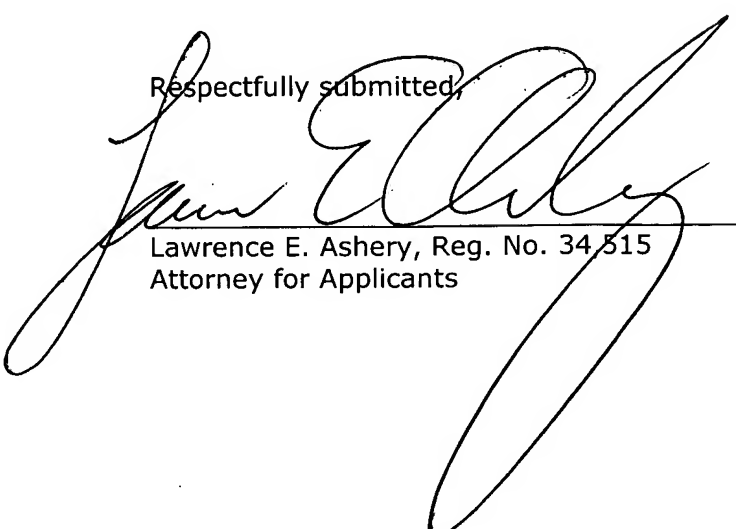
Claims 3-5, and 12-14 were indicated as being allowable over the art of record.

Appln. No.: 10/031,028
Amendment Dated: March 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: February 10, 2004

MAT-8217US

In view of the amendments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attorney for Applicants

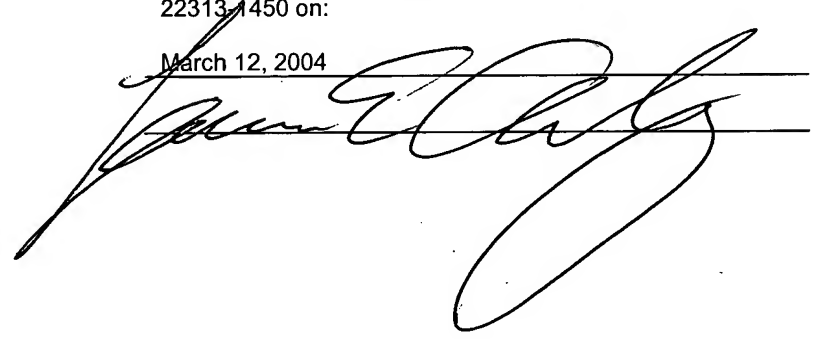
LEA:ds

Dated: March 12, 2004

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

March 12, 2004


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